

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 EA-11 EB-11 AID-20 AF-10 OMB-01 MC-02

ACDA-19 IO-14 DRC-01 /199 W
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R 221832Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7747

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 7188

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PK, FR

SUBJECT: QUAI VIEWS OF AZIZ AHMED VISIT

1. MOREAU, QUAI OFFICIAL HANDLING SOUTH ASIAN AFFAIRS, TOLD EMBOFF MARCH 21 THAT DESPITE PROBLEMS FROM IMPROMPTU ORGANIZATION THE MARCH 10-13 VISIT OF AZIZ AHMED, MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND DEFENSE, HAD BEEN WITHOUT PROBLEMS -- "NOT EVEN A PRESS INDISCRETION." VISIT WAS HURRIEDLY ARRANGED WHEN PAKISTANIS ASKED ON MARCH 8 FOR A VISIT TO PARIS DURING AZIZ AHMED'S EUROPEAN TRIP. ALTHOUGH QUAI'S JOBERT AND LIPKOWSKI AND MINISTER OF ARMED FORCES GALLEY WERE ALL OUT OF TOWN FOR PART OF AHMED'S VISIT, ALL THREE WERE ABLE TO SEE HIM.

2. PRINCIPAL SUBJECT OF THE GENERAL TOUR D'HORIZON OF WORLD AND BILATERAL PROBLEMS WAS THE DANGER FOR PAKISTAN PRESENTED BY INDIA AND AFGHANISTAN BECAUSE OF SOVIET SUPPORT, A FAMILIAR THEME TO THE FRENCH. ACCORDING TO AHMED, CHINA WAS A FRIEND BUT FAR AWAY;
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THE U.S. WAS UNKIND BECAUSE IT REFUSED TO SUPPLY ARMS.

AHMED ALSO DISCUSSED THE ENERGY PROBLEMS OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WHICH WERE NOT PETROLEUM PRODUCERS. AHMED DISCUSSED THE PROMISES OF PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT FROM FELLOW MUSLIM COUNTRIES (PARTICULARLY LIBYA) WHICH PAKISTAN RECEIVED AT THE LAHORE CONFERENCE. PAKISTANIS ALSO RAISED FRENCH ECONOMIC AID, BUT IT WAS CLEAR THAT THE GOP COULD ABSORB EVEN THE AID WHICH FRANCE HAD AGREED TO PROVIDE DURING BHUTTO'S JUNE 1973 VISIT.

3. MOREAU SAID AHMED HAD ALSO RAISED FRENCH MILITARY AID TO PAKISTAN. AHMED WAS MUCH LESS REALISTIC THAN BHUTTO AND ASKED FOR A BROAD RANGE OF ASSISTANCE TO PERMIT PAKISTAN TO BE SELF-SUFFICIENT IN ARMS PRODUCTION AS A RESPONSE TO INDIA'S ACQUIRING THE CAPABILITY TO PRODUCE HELICOPTERS AND MISSILES. ALTHOUGH SOME PROGRESS WAS MADE IN ARMS DEALS, THE FRENCH WERE NOT ANXIOUS TO BECOME INVOLVED IN AMBITIOUS PROJECTS SUCH AS A PLANT FOR THE PRODUCTION OF MIRAGES. IT WAS CLEAR THAT PAKISTAN'S INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT MADE THIS KIND OF REQUEST COMPLETELY UNREALISTIC. MOREAU ALSO NOTED THAT PAKISTANI PRODUCTION OF MIRAGES COULD RESULT IN PAKISTANI EFFORTS TO EXPORT MIRAGES IN COMPETITION WITH FRANCE. MOREAU COMMENTED THAT THE REQUESTS WERE SO UNREALISTIC -- AND BHUTTO WAS SO SOPHISTICATED -- THAT FRENCH QUESTIONED THE SINCERITY OF THE REQUESTS. THEY WERE INCLINED TO THINK THAT, IN BHUTTO'S MIND AT LEAST, THESE REQUESTS WERE CONSIDERED USEFUL IN NUDGING THE U.S. TOWARD RESUMPTION OF A MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR PAKISTAN ON THE ORDER OF THAT FOR IRAN.

4. COMMENT: THE AFP ANNOUNCEMENT MADE IT FAIRLY CLEAR THAT NOTHING SPECIFIC HAD HAPPENED DURING AHDMD'S VISIT AND MOREAU'S ACCOUNT CONFIRMS THIS IMPRESSION.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, MINISTERIAL VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 MAR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974PARIS07188
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740062-0639
From: PARIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740322/aaaaausc.tel
Line Count: 96
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <25 APR 2002 by ifshinsr>; APPROVED <03 FEB 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: QUAI VIEWS OF AZIZ AHMED VISIT
TAGS: PFOR, PK, FR, QUAI, (AHMED, AZIZ), (MOREAU)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005